

TO: Interested Parties
FR: House Republican Whip Eric Cantor
DT: March 19, 2010
RE: No-Mentum: Inside the Whip Count

It has been widely reported that the White House and congressional Democrats are gaining momentum towards passing their government take-over of health care. Democrat Leadership may be selling that story to recalcitrant rank-and-file Democrats, but those Democrats shouldn't be buying it.

LET'S BE CLEAR: No Democrat who has switched from a "no" to a "yes" so far has been a SURPRISE. Quite the opposite—those five have been predictable.

We're not the Democrat Whip, but these numbers aren't hard to crunch:

- 38 Democrats are needed to defeat a government take-over of health care.
- Of the original 37 Democrat NO votes, 5 have publicly switched their votes to "yes":
 - *John Boccieri, Allen Boyd, Bart Gordon, Dennis Kucinich, and Betsy Markey.*
- That means there are 32 current Democrat NO votes left. Unless those 32 Democrats want to dispute our characterization of their position, that's a fact. Here's a few from that group who might want to dispute they're a no, so **we're watching them with a close eye:**
 - *Brian Baird, Suzanne Kosmas, Michael McMahon, Scott Murphy, John Tanner, and Harry Teague.*
- Seemingly, Speaker Nancy Pelosi has a comfortable victory if she only has 32 NO votes.....but that ignores 2 groups.
- The **first group** is from a pool of original "yes" votes who are in conservative-leaning districts, and know that a government take-over is widely unpopular. It seems clear that Speaker Pelosi could lose any one of these Members—in fact, it appears she's already lost at least one:
 - *Michael Arcuri, Marion Berry, Jim Costa, Gabby Giffords, Stephen Lynch, and Zach Space.*
- The **second group** is very well-known by now for taking a principled stand:
 - *The "Stupak 12." Only Mr. Stupak knows exactly who his 12 are and we respect their privacy.*
- So, if we add 12 to 32, we get 44—which leaves Speaker Pelosi 7 votes short.
- Since that doesn't take into account the additional Members we've listed above, we will continue to watch them closely.

THE END.